



**UNITED BENEFICE OF CORLEY
PARISH CHURCH & ST MARY &
ALL SAINTS CHURCH,
FILLONGLEY WITH FILLONGLEY
METHODIST CHURCH**

Anglicans and Methodists in Unity.



Dear Friends,

It is confession time – I am a bit of a Star Wars nerd. I love all the films, but especially the first trilogy. The first film was Star Wars IV – A New Hope, released in 1977. It tells, if you have never seen any of the films, of the battle between good and evil.

The Force and the Dark Side. When I first saw the films, I wasn't a Christian, but I was struck by the simple message the films contained. That no matter how powerful, no matter how seductive, no matter how many 'baddies' there were, the dark side could never and would never win.

It struck me yesterday (Wednesday 2nd) that there was a resonance for me in the new hope that has been offered by the Coronavirus vaccine. No matter how deadly this virus is, no matter how helpless some of us may have felt, there is a new hope. It isn't a quick fix. It will take time for us all to be offered the vaccine – either this one or the others that are currently being tested. But there is hope. We have hope of being able to meet again in homes, without masks. Of being able to hug our loved ones without endangering their health or lives. It just takes one spark of hope to begin to lighten the darkness. It feels really appropriate that this good news in the fight against Covid 19 has come in the season of Advent. A time when we are waiting expectantly for the Light. The Light that was born a vulnerable baby 2000 years ago. The Light that always offers a new

hope. The Light that the darkness can never overcome. The darkness can never win. The Light is triumphant.

So, as we gather again in church this Sunday (6th) my hope and prayer for us all is that we can continue to do our bit to keep each other safe. Now we are in Tier 3 we need to be even more careful of each other as we worship together. Along with wearing facemasks, using the hand sanitiser and keeping our social distance, we need to be more vigilant about not gathering with others not in our 'bubble' before or after worship. By keeping our distance from each other we are caring for each other and by caring for each other by following all the guidelines we will, God willing, be able to carry on gathering in God's house for the foreseeable future.

So take heart – there is light, there is hope. The Light of the World is coming again. There is Light in the darkness

and the darkness cannot overcome it.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you or someone you know would like a call.

God bless you and yours.

Ali

***A joke for Advent 2~ Who is the richest person in the Bible?
Answer: Pharaoh's daughter because she went to the Jordan Bank and came back with a profit/Prophet!***

Stop press

Services on Sunday next

9:00am Corley Church

10:30am Fillongley Church

Please bring and wear a face covering



P.S. Advent Compline, a gentle half hour of prayer and scripture will be held on the next three Wednesday evenings at 7.30pm. On the 9th and 23rd at Corley Church and on the 16th at St Mary and All Saints, Fillongley. If you would like to experience a flavour of Compline you might want to watch the recorded service for the first week of Advent on YouTube. Here is the link:

<https://youtu.be/DOAMPYR2xzU>

LECTIONARY Readings and Prayers for Sunday 6th December 2020

The Second Sunday of ADVENT

Collects

O Lord, raise up, we pray, your power and come among us, and with great might succour us; that whereas, through our sins and wickedness we are grievously hindered in running the race that is set before us, your bountiful grace and mercy may speedily help and deliver us; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, to whom with you and the Holy Spirit, be honour and glory, now and for ever. **Amen.**

Almighty God, purify our hearts and minds, that when your Son Jesus Christ comes again as judge and saviour we may be ready to receive him, who is our Lord and our God. **Amen.**

Readings

Isaiah 40: vs 1-11 Psalm 85

2 Peter 3: vs 8-15a Mark 1: vs 1-8



Talk / Reflection

Revd Ali's Reflection for this Sunday is attached to this Bulletin and will be preached at the 9am Service of Holy Communion at Corley Church.

HYMNS & WORSHIP SONGS

Here are the Hymns that we would have been singing in Church on Sunday ~

Advent candles tell their story (StF 165) Verses 1 & 2

Faithful One, so unchanging (StF 628)

Long ago, prophets knew Christ would come (StF 178)

Make way, make way, for Christ the king in splendour arrives (StF 264)

We defy any one of you not to join in with this wonderful worship song ~

[Graham Kendrick - Make Way Make Way - Lyric Video - Bing video](#)

PRAYERS

We continue to pray throughout Advent ~ for our world, our nation, our communities, our families and friends and for ourselves.

Please light a candle and unite in prayer at 6pm each day.



A Prayer of Hope

Living God, as I light my candle, may the flame of desire for justice and peace burn deep within me, releasing the transforming power of your Holy Spirit; and may your kingdom come. Amen

A prayer from the Bible Reading Fellowship

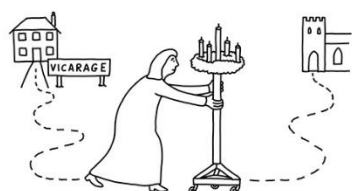
Lord of our fragile lives,
just as we are waiting in hope for a future,
so we realise you too are waiting for us
to choose love over what we fear,
to choose faith over what we see
and to choose life over what is dying.
Help us to find your cross in the midst of this crisis
so that, as we move tentatively forward,
we might not forget what we have learnt
about ourselves, our world and your love.
Amen



RESOURCES

GOING BACK TO CHURCH

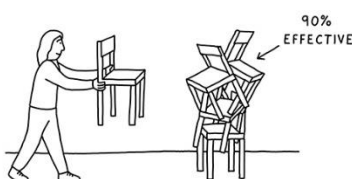
THINGS TO REMEMBER



THE CURRENT STATUS OF THE ADVENT WREATH



HOW TO GREET PEOPLE



THE BEST WAY TO UNDERTAKE REGULAR TASKS



WHERE WE'RE UP TO ON THE ROTAS

Attached to this Bulletin are these items ~

✚ A Reflection from Revd Ali Massey for the Second Sunday of Advent

✚ A Service of Holy Communion at Corley Parish Church

✚ A Christingle Service for everyone at St Mary & All Saints Church, Fillongley

✚ "Bill Gates deserves credit for the vaccines" Church Times 27th November 2020

